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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 /034 W
---------- 026222
R 071930Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6218

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SEAGA DECLARES FOR JLP LEADERSHIP

REF: KINGSTON 3561

1. FORMER FINANCE MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 5 HIS DECISION TO SEEK THE LEADERSHIP OF THE JLP AT ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 25. SEAGA, WHO DECLARED LAST YEAR THAT HE WAS TAKING "A COUPLE OF YEARS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM PARTY ACTIVITIES", TOLD A MASS RALLY THAT "THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE MISTRUST OF THE MOTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT" HAD IMPELLED HIM TO RESPOND TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF SUPPORTERS AND SEEK THE JLP LEADERSHIP.

2. LASHING THE PNP FOR ITS SOCIALIST STANCE, SEAGA SAID IT WAS BECOMING OBVIOUS THAT THE FOUNDATIONS WERE BEING LAID WHICH COULD BE USED TO MANIPULATE THE CUNTRY INTO ONE BELIEF, ONE DOCTRINE AND ONE PARTY, SO THAT A GROUP OF MEN COULD ARRANGE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR SUCCESSORS TO "RULE AND RULE TILL GOD ALMIGHTY COMES." HE CONCLUDED BY DECLARING HIS INTENTION TO PUT THE JLP ON AN ELECTION FOOTING WITHIN A FEW SHORT MONTHS.

3. SEAGA QUIETLY HAS BEEN BUILDING UP SUPPORT FOR
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HIS CANDIDACY EVER SINCE JLP LEADER SHEARER ANNOUNCED

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HE WAS STEPPING DOWN (REFTEL) AND NOW LOOKS LIKE A SURE WINNER AGAINS THE ONLY OTHER DECLARED CANDIDATE, M.P. WILTON HILL. THE JLP YOUTH WING AND A NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES HAVE ALREADY DECLARED FOR SEAGA AND APPARENTLY HE HAS RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF THE TITULAR HEAD OF JLP, SIR ALEXANDER BUSTAMANTE (SEAGA ADDRESSED THE RALLY IN HEROE'S PARK FROM THE BASE OF THE STATUE OF SIR ALEXANDER, WHO HE REFERRED TO AS "MY OTHER FATHER").

4. COMMENT: SEAGA MIGHT NOT BE THE MOST POPULAR POLITICIAN IN THE JLP BUT HIS INTELLIGENCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY COMMAND NEAR UNIVERSAL RESPECT. HE UNDOUBTEDLY IS THE MAN FOR THE MOMENT IF A FRACTURED JLP IS TO BE REUNITED AND MADE INTO A VIABLE OPPOSITION.
GERARD

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NNN

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